

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Foreman for the indication that Claims 15, 17, 19 and 20 are allowable and that Claims 5, 12 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Independent Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter recited in Claim 16, and Claim 16 is canceled. Thus, Claim 1 and all the dependent claims are allowable.

Also, Claim 8 is amended to include the subject matter set forth in Claim 16. The references applied in the Official Action do not disclose or suggest a guide wire comprising, in combination with the other claimed features, first and second wires welded to one another at a welded portion having a projection projecting in the outer peripheral direction to extend on both axial sides of the welded portion. It is thus respectfully submitted that independent Claim 8, and the associated dependent claims, are allowable. Claims 25 and 26, as well as Claims 27-30 directed to the non-elected invention, are canceled.

As Claims 21-24 were not rejected on prior art grounds, it is understood that such claims are also allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

As a final matter, the Examiner is thanked for noting the typographical error with respect to one of the U.S. patents cited in Third Information Disclosure

Statement. That inadvertent error is corrected by way of the accompanying
Information Disclosure Statement.

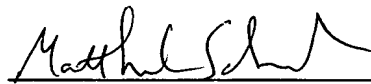
Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this application or
believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in
resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned
respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: July 10, 2008

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